



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE MARY M. MUSHINSKY
EIGHTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4038
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (203) 269-8378
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8500
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267
E-mail: Mary.Mushinsky@cga.ct.gov

RANKING MEMBER
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FINANCE REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

Testimony of Rep. Mary Mushinsky (85th) In Support of
P2E Job Training Program

Before Appropriations Committee, Conservation and Development Subcommittee
March 2, 2015 6:00 p.m.

In our report on Older Workers issued Dec. 2013, The Program Review and Investigations Committee (PRI) reviewed and ranked job training programs as part of our research to assist older and long term unemployed workers. The clear winner was P2E (Platform to Employment), which retrained workers and was successful at placing them in new jobs 89% of the time. This is an astonishing success rate. Based on PRI's analysis, Rep. Peter Tercyak recommended inclusion of P2E in the Labor Department programs and the Appropriations Committee expanded P2E statewide in the 2014 budget. Now it has been eliminated in the Governor's proposed budget.

I attended the first P2E class in the Greater New Haven area, and met dozens of earnest workers who looked forward to learning new skills and finally ending their long unemployment. The current graduates in the P2E program have a success rate that is already above 80%!

As PRI staff said in their report, this hands-on training program headed by Joe Carbone, c.e.o. of The Workplace, is remarkably successful with this hard to place population. Remember that older workers and workers displaced from long careers by technological change experience significantly longer periods of unemployment and face PRI-documented age discrimination. They need retraining to learn new skills and transfer their existing work ethic to a new job.

The current funding will train 500 workers before this fiscal year is over. Please restore the P2E program and give the next class of older workers and long term unemployed the support they need to re-enter the workforce. Their work ethic is solid—all they need is new skills.